



# Milwaukee County Office of the Sheriff

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## NEWS RELEASE

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David A. Clarke Jr.  
*Sheriff*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Sheriff's Elderly Abuse Unit Reports Increase in Scams Targeting Elderly**

MILWAUKEE, WI – The Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office Elderly Abuse Unit reports a disturbing increase in financial scams targeting the elderly. Often relatives or caregivers commit these crimes.

Recently, the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office Elderly Abuse Unit completed an investigation in which a daughter stole *more than \$116,000*. The investigation revealed that 50-year-old Cynthia Blackmon, daughter of the 79-year-old victim, wrote unauthorized checks and used fraudulent credit cards in her mother's name over a two-year period.

Blackmon was charged with 21 counts of elder abuse including: *theft by trustee, forgery, and misappropriation of personal identifying information*. All charges are felonies, with the theft by trustee charge carrying a maximum fine of \$25,000 and imprisonment up to ten (10) years. Blackmon is currently being held in the Milwaukee County Jail.

Sheriff David A. Clarke Jr. formed the Elderly Abuse Unit in January 2007 to address crimes against society's most vulnerable population, the elderly. The Elderly Abuse Unit partners with the Department on Aging investigating cases of neglect, physical abuse and financial exploitation. The Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office encourages citizens to immediately report suspected abuse or neglect to the Department on Aging Elder Abuse Hotline at 414.289.6874. Citizens should also contact detectives in the Sheriff's Elderly Abuse Unit at 414.278.4788.

Media Interviews about this case and the issue of elder abuse are available starting Friday, January 4<sup>th</sup>.

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